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REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 21-27 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Applicants' representative notes with appreciation the indication that claims 23-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To this end, independent claims 1 and 21 have been amended and claim 23 cancelled herein. Additionally, claims 24-26 have been amended to cure the minor informalities caused by the cancellation of claim 23. A version of all pending claims is found at pages 2-5. Favorable consideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-6 and 21-22 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-6 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wulff *et al.* (US 2003/0234291). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Independent claims 1 and 21 have been amend to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in dependent claim 23. Thus, it is believed that the subject claims are in condition for allowance and that the instant rejection is moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION


The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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